

29 April 2003
Application No.: 09/757,856
Docket: 1028.co

c.) Remarks

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended in various particulars.

The only outstanding issue concerns two related rejections of the claims over two references. Specifically, claims 1-5, 7-11, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,563,969 to Honmou, or in the alternative, as being obvious over Honmou, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, claims 6, 12, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Honmou, in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,758,386 to Fanning.

Applicants continue to respectfully believe that the present pending claims are neither anticipated nor obvious over the applied references.

As argued previously, claim 1, for example, requires the detection of a diffraction pattern exiting from a fiber lens. The fiber lens is then electro-fused in response to a two-dimensional distribution of the diffraction pattern. In contrast, the Honmou Patent teaches that the fusing should be performed in response to the diameter. It is agreed that the diameter is a one-dimensional parameter. Thus the feature of fusing in response to the two-dimensional distribution is not taught.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to further specify that the fusing be performed on a wedge-shaped polished lens.

In contrast, the Honmou patent teaches that the initial lens should be formed by etching. See Honmou at col 4, first paragraph. This yields a somewhat spherical lens.

This difference is important. When forming wedge shaped lenses, the focal lengths of both axes must be controlled to optimize the lens. With the present invention, this can be achieved by reference to the aspect ratio.

This is not appreciated by the references.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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